AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing radio links between at least one mobile station ~~(MS-i)~~ and a radio access network ~~(RAN)~~ of a communications network, the method ~~being characterized in that,~~ comprising:

detecting whether a radio link interruption occurs which prevents said mobile station ~~(MS-i)~~ and said radio network controller from communicating with each other via a radio link;

in the event of an interruption being detected in the radio link between [[a]] said mobile station ~~(MS-i)~~ and said radio access network ~~(RAN)~~, suspending said radio link ~~is suspended, and an attempt is made~~ and attempting to reactivate said radio link ~~in application of a selected timetable~~ for a predetermined time interval; and

if said radio link is not reactivated within the predetermined time interval, determining that said interruption is permanent.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an attempt is made to reactivate said radio link after each detection of an interruption.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that an attempt is~~ wherein attempts are made to reactivate said radio link in application of ~~said~~ a selected timetable over ~~a selected~~ said predetermined time interval.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim ~~1, characterized in that~~ 3, wherein said timetable is of the periodic type.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim ~~1, characterized in that~~ 3, wherein said timetable is drawn up on the basis of statistical results obtained in said communications network and relating to the durations of said detected interruptions.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for managing radio links between at least one mobile station ~~(MS-i)~~ and a radio network controller ~~(BSCn)~~ of a radio access network ~~(RAN)~~ of a communications network, the apparatus ~~being characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising:

detector means ~~(DM)~~ arranged to detect a radio link interruption ~~between~~ which prevents [[a]] said mobile station ~~(MS-i)~~ and said radio network controller from communicating with each other via a radio link; ~~(BSCn),~~ and

control means ~~(CM)~~ arranged, in the event of ~~such an~~ said interruption being detected, to order said radio network controller ~~(BSCn)~~ to suspend said radio link, and then to attempt to reactivate said radio link ~~in application of a selected timetable~~ for a predetermined time interval,

and determine that said interruption is permanent if said radio link is not reactivated within said predetermined time interval.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control means ~~(CM)~~ are arranged to order said radio network controller ~~(BSCn)~~ to attempt to reactivate said radio link after each detection of an interruption signaled by said detector means ~~(DM)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control means ~~(CM)~~ are arranged to order said radio network controller ~~(BSCn)~~ to attempt to reactivate said radio link in application of ~~said~~ a selected timetable during ~~a selected~~ said predetermined time interval.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim [[6]] 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said timetable is of the periodic type.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim [[6]] 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control means ~~(CM)~~ are arranged to draw up said timetable on the basis of statistical results obtained in said communications network and relating to the durations of said interruptions detected by said detector means ~~(DM)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A radio network controller ~~(BSCn)~~ of a radio access network ~~(RAN)~~ of a communications network, the controller ~~being characterized in that it includes apparatus (D) according to claim 6~~ comprising an apparatus for managing radio links between at least one mobile station and the radio network controller, the apparatus comprising detector means arranged to detect a radio link interruption which prevents a mobile station and said radio network controller from communicating with each other via a radio link, and control means arranged, in the event of said interruption being detected, to order said radio network controller to suspend said radio link, and then to attempt to reactivate said radio link for a predetermined time interval, and determine that said interruption is permanent if said radio link is not reactivated within said predetermined time interval.

12. (Currently Amended) Equipment for a radio access network ~~(RAN)~~ of a communications network including at least one radio network controller ~~(BSCn)~~, the equipment ~~being characterized in that it includes apparatus (D) according to claim 6~~ comprising an apparatus for managing radio links between at least one mobile station and the radio network controller, the apparatus comprising detector means arranged to detect a radio link interruption which prevents a mobile station and said radio network controller from communicating with each other via a radio link, and control means arranged, in the event of said interruption being detected, to order said radio network controller to suspend said radio link, and then to attempt to reactivate said radio link for a predetermined time interval, and determine that said interruption is permanent if said radio link is not reactivated within said predetermined time interval.

13. (Currently Amended) A communications network ~~including~~ comprising a radio access network (RAN) including at least one radio network controller (BSCn)~~, the communications network being characterized in that it includes~~ and at least one apparatus ~~(D) according to claim 6~~ for managing radio links between at least one mobile station and the radio network controller, the apparatus comprising detector means arranged to detect a radio link interruption which prevents a mobile station and said radio network controller from communicating with each other via a radio link, and control means arranged, in the event of said interruption being detected, to order said radio network controller to suspend said radio link, and then to attempt to reactivate said radio link for a predetermined time interval, and determine that said interruption is permanent if said radio link is not reactivated within said predetermined time interval.